REMARKS

Claims 1-27 are pending in the present application. Claims 1, 13, 17 and 19 were amended and new claims 21-27 were added. Reconsideration of the claims is respectfully requested.

I. 35 U.S.C. § 112 (Antecedent Basis)

Claim 13 was objected to for insufficient antecedent basis for "said DHCP server" in line 3. Claim 13 has been amended to specify "a DHCP server".

II. 35 U.S.C. § 102 (Anticipation)

Claims 1-6, 8, and 11-20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Bullman et al (US Patent No. 6,778,505), hereinafter referred to as Bullman.

A prior art reference anticipates the claimed invention under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) only if every element of a claimed invention is identically shown in that single reference, arranged as they are in the claims. Anticipation is only shown where each and every limitation of the claimed invention is found in a single prior art reference.

Bullman et al. is directed to a technique for "automatically detecting the network-layer protocol used by the protocol layer at the head end of a DSL connection and automatically setting the driver configuration for that protocol" (Col 1, lines 51-55). Bullman addresses the situation in which a user is installing a new DSL modem and does not know the particular DSL protocol (ADSL, SDSL, etc.) used at the head end. In current practice this problem is avoided by simply specifying the DSL protocol and sending the identifier stored in the server. However, Bullman provides another approach, albeit outdated by current practice, for detecting and setting the driver configurations for that protocol comprising the steps of "(a) attempting to initiate a DSL connection over the DSL link to the head end using a selected DSL protocol; (b) determining whether the selected DSL protocol is the DSL protocol of the head end based on the results of step (a); and (c) if the selected DSL protocol is not the DSL protocol of the head end, then selecting another DSL protocol and repeating steps (a) and (b)." (Col. 2, lines21-26) In other words, Bullman selects possible protocols from a stored list and keeps trying until

the correct protocol is found or fails. Once found, the driver configuration for that protocol is set. Bullman is very specifically directed at establishing the "DSL link" between the modem and head end at the "network-layer". Bullman never addresses the process for then acquiring configuration details for the actual IP communication device and configuring the device.

Applicant's invention is directed at a completely different phase of the process for installing a new bi-directional IP communication device, e.g. a DSL modem, ATM modem, cell phone, etc. Applicant's invention addresses acquisition and installation of the configuration details of the device itself rather than driver configurations for the particular DSL protocol. Furthermore, as recited in claim 8, the method (in the case of DSL) includes the step of first "automatically detecting a DSL communication circuit", which means the network-layer protocol must already be established. In the case of DSL, if the protocol has not been established Applicant's method could not broadcast the request or receive the configuration details from the server. Therefore Bullman is not relevant to the process as claimed for acquiring the configuration details for the IP communication device. Furthermore, the method steps taught by Bullman of selecting a network-layer protocol, trying to initiate a DSL connection and if he fails selecting another protocol are very different from Applicant's method of broadcasting a request containing a unique device identifier associated with a unique user as described in independent claims 1, 17 and 19 as currently amended and new independent claims 22 and 26, and would not function to retrieve the basic configuration details for the IP communication device at all, much less in the same manner. As recited in new claim 21 as dependent from claim 1, the configuration details, device identifiers and user identifiers are stored in a configuration table at the server. This is clearly not anticipated by Bullman's iterative process. According, the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) are respectively traversed.

Independent claim 22 includes the limitations of claim 1 as currently amended, and further particularly points out that the device's unique device identifier is associated at a server with the unique user prior to connection of the IP communication device. This unique combination of steps is clearly not anticipated by Bullman. Dependent claims 23 through 25 recite limitations directed to a configuration table stored at the server (p. 13, l.

14-20), an IP address for the communication device, and automatically detecting a dial-tone for the internet protocol (p. 13, l. 27). These additional limitations are not anticipated by Bullman.

Independent claim 26 (p. 13, l. 4 to p. 16, l. 2) includes the limitations of claim 1 as currently amended, and further recites the method steps for generating and storing a configuration table listing the device identifiers, users and basic configuration details, identifying the appropriate configuration details based on the request and then transmitting those details. This unique combination of steps is clearly not anticipated by Bullman. Dependent claim 27 further recites the step of automatically detecting a dial-tone for the internet protocol.

III. 35 U.S.C. § 103 (Obviousness)

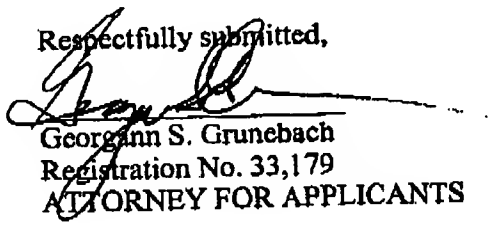
Claims 7 and 9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bullman et al (US Patent No. 6,778,505), hereinafter referred to as Bullman, further in view of Official Notice. Claim 10-13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bullman, further in view of Hassan-Ali et al (US Patent No 6,778,542). These rejections are respectively traversed on the arguments put forth for claim 1. Applicant reserves the right to address these specific grounds for rejection at a later time.

IV. Conclusion

It is respectfully urged that the subject application is patentable over the cited references and is now in condition for allowance.

The Examiner is invited to call the undersigned at the below listed telephone number if, in the opinion of the Examiner, such a telephone conference would expedite or aid the prosecution and examination of this application.

Respectfully submitted,



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